

## What Is Neighborhood Watch?

An active Neighborhood Watch (NW) is one of the most successful and least costly crime prevention programs available. Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort between the Reno Police Department and the citizens of Reno. It is designed to help reduce residential burglaries and other crimes. You will learn how to:

- Identify and report suspicious activity
- Better safeguard your home and property.
- Be prepared in case of emergencies, and much more...

### Some of the FREE services available to Neighborhood Watch groups include:

- Residential Security Consultations
- Vacation House Watches
- Professional speaker(s) on a variety of topics
- Local crime statistics
- Crime Prevention literature

**By working with your neighbors and the police, you can help fight crime in your neighborhood the most effective way... before it begins!**

Although the Police Department provides guidance in organizing and maintaining Neighborhood Watch groups, community volunteers, such as you, actually run the program. That way you can tailor the program to your own neighborhood's unique character.



**Crime Prevention Tips From**  
National Crime Prevention Council  
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 13th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

## PHONE NUMBERS Emergency - 911

Non Emergency Police Line  
**(775) 334-2121**

[www.reno.gov](http://www.reno.gov)



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**Reno Police Department**

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## How Do I Start A Neighborhood Watch In My Area?

### Step One

Talk to your neighbors to determine if they are interested in joining a NW Group. An effective NW requires at least 30% to 50% participation.

### Step Two

Plan your meeting; determine the best possible date, time, and location to hold your first meeting.

### Step Three

To schedule a NW meeting, call Community Affairs at least three weeks in advance.

### Step Four

Publicize your meeting by creating flyers or posters.



Once a Neighborhood Watch group is established in your area, members are encouraged to watch out for one another, target-harden their homes, and hold regular meetings or neighborhood events at least twice a year. This way everyone can keep up-to-date on current crime trends and continue to build a sense of community.

Here are some commonly held beliefs, the reality behind those beliefs, and how Neighborhood Watch can help you and your neighbors...

- “Crime’s not a problem in my neighborhood.” This may or may not be true; however, because there is usually a lack of communication among neighbors most people don’t know what is actually occurring in their own community.
- Neighborhood Watch encourages neighbors to talk to each other. At the first Neighborhood Watch meeting, an officer will provide group members with local crime statistics.
- “If someone really wants to break in, they will.” This is probably true; however, most burglars will choose the easiest target, such as a house with an unlocked door or open window.
- Neighborhood Watch group members will learn how to target-harden their homes. The Reno Police Department offers free Residential Security Consultations to all group members.
- “It’s safer to live in a gated community.” A fully gated community can help with pedestrian and vehicular traffic control; however, gates are usually kept open during daylight hours when most residential burglaries occur.
- “What if I call the police about a possible incident and nothing’s wrong?” So you may be a little embarrassed; however, what if your instincts were right? You may prevent a burglary or something much more severe from occurring.

- Neighborhood Watch can expose old myths and provide you with up-to-date information on a variety of topics.
- Neighborhood Watch teaches group members how to identify and report suspicious persons, vehicles, activity, and crime.

## The Problem!

### U.S. Department of Justice Reports:

- Property crime makes up about three-quarters of all crime in the United States.
- Overall, about 80% of all burglaries are successful.
- In 6 of 10 completed burglaries, the burglar gained entry through an unlocked door or open window.

## The Solution?

### Neighborhood Watch:

- In three community areas in Long Beach, California, active Neighborhood Watch programs resulted in a dramatic 45% percent reduction in residential burglaries.
- Lakewood, Colorado, documented a 77% drop in burglaries after implementing Neighborhood Watch.
- Even in Reno, Neighborhood Watch programs have aided in the apprehension of burglars in various neighborhoods.